

Current Status:

We have one Vacancy on the Commission:

With Bill O’Heaney moving out of town, we need a volunteer to replace him on the Commission. The focus will be to continue the important work started by Bill on Access in the Private Sector. The ideal candidate would be someone in the Building trades, like a retired builder, contractor or architect. The Access Committee of the Disability Commission continues its work to make Andover one of the most accessible towns in Massachusetts. What does this mean? Access means that we are striving to make sure that all of the town offices; buildings, streets and sidewalks are open to all town residents. We work closely with the Town Managers office, the Department of Public Works and the Plants and Facilities Office to see that all town building and streets are accessible to all. Besides just curb cuts and open sidewalks, we look at parking, doorways, elevators, aisles and any other area that may be difficult to navigate.

Not only do we work with all government owned buildings and properties, we also work closely with privately owned buildings and businesses. We survey businesses, agencies, and organizations for accesability and architectural access. We work with owners and managers to encourage compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Access Board's regulations and other disability laws and strive for a community that promotes more access for people with disabilities. We have resolved complaints at several local establishments and work closely with new buildings under construction to make sure that all new buildings in the town meet ADA requirements. We at the Commission believe that it is all of our responsibility to help Andover be in 100% compliance with this important law to make our entire town fully accessible. Not only does this aid the person with a disability, but also serves mothers with strollers, seniors, and others who would appreciate easier access to government and business establishments. We all must work together to make Andover all that it can be, and open for all of its citizens.